

means for expanding said expandable member upwardly and forwardly at an angle with respect to a base of said expandable member, with said body part on said rest member.

2. (Second amended) Apparatus as defined in claim 1 further including an auxiliary surface associated therewith.
3. (Amended) Apparatus as defined in claim 2 wherein said body part is a foot positioned on said rest member in the non-expanded position of said expandable member.
4. (Amended) Apparatus as defined in claim 2 wherein said body part is an arm positioned on said rest member.
5. (Amended) Apparatus as defined in claim 1 wherein said rest member is a platform that is supported by a tubular member.
6. (Amended) Apparatus as defined in claim 5 wherein said platform is configured to said body part when said rest member is in the non-expanded position of said expandable member.
7. (Second amended) Apparatus as defined in claim 1 wherein said expandable member is selected from the class consisting of externally reinforced bellows and scissors mechanisms.
8. (Second amended) Apparatus as defined in claim 7 wherein said expandable member is adhered to a portion of said platform.
11. (Second amended) The method of supporting a body part for transfer, comprising the steps of:
 - (a) positioning said body part on a rigid member at rest;
 - (b) expanding said rest member to an inclined elevation with said body part supported thereon; and
 - (c) transferring said body part from said rest member.
12. (Second amended) The method of claim 11 further including the step of expanding against said rigid rest member in association with a bed.
13. (Amended) The method of claim 11 wherein the positioning step includes positioning a foot upon said rest member.
14. (Amended) The method of claim 11 further including the step of expanding against said rest member by a compressor.
16. (Second amended) The method of fabricating apparatus for supporting a body part comprising the steps of:
 - (a) providing a pivotally supportable platform configured to said body part;
 - and

(b) associating an expandable member with said platform.

17. (Amended) The method of claim 16 further including the step attaching a bellows to said platform to serve as said expandable member and said platform is supportable by a tubular member pivotally attached thereto.

18. (Amended) The method of claim 17 further including the step of providing means for angularly inflating said bellows.

21. (Second amended) A system for assisting a person to have a lower limb adopt a reclined position from a sitting position,

comprising a surface upon which a person is to be seated; and means for elevating said lower limb of said person to a level permitting the transfer of said lower limb to a reclined position on said surface.

24. (Amended) A system as defined in claim 21 wherein the means for transferring is positioned on a floor-based platform.

26. (Amended) A system as defined in claim 25 further including means for continuously elevating said support with respect to said platform.

28. (Amended) A system as defined in claim 27 wherein said support is depressible in level condition to the vicinity of said platform after said lower limb has been transferred.

31. (Amended) A method for assisting persons seated on an elevated surface comprising the steps of:

- (a) positioning a seated person's lower limb on means for elevating said lower limb;
- (b) elevating said lower limb with said person initially remaining seated; and
- (c) transferring said elevated lower limb to said elevated surface.

35. (Amended) A method as defined in claim 34 wherein said lower limb is transferred to said elevated surface such that said person can adopt a reclined position.

REMARKS

Applicant has amended the claims to clarify the distinctions provided by the invention over the final rejection of claims 1-35 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,651,149 ("149") to Garman for the reasons set forth below.

Claims 1, 21, 11 and 31

Claims 1 and 21 have been rejected as anticipated by Garman '149 on the basis that Garman "shows the claimed limitations of an 'apparatus' (30, 30A, 60, 63) for assisting a seated person into adopting a reclined position from a sitting position and supporting a body part or lower limb of the